

April 4, 2007

To the Senate concerning Bill 7408

Thank you all for considering Bill 7048; but especially my Senator, Gary LeBeau, Senator McDonald, Chairman Mike Lawlor and the Judiciary Committee Staff. It was at my request that Senator Lebeau helped introduced language raising the statute of limitations to 40 years, as the email below shows.

Listen while you hear something you have never heard before. An adult woman a rapes child, then, many years later, has him victim bankrupted, jailed and collects \$41,000 for back child support, with the help of State welfare lawyers. Although unemployed and traumatized by this re-victimization, he is put in jail until he can come up with \$15,000 at once by cashing credit card advances. She buys a house with the money. Of course, she cannot be prosecuted for the rape, although she admits to on the paternity trial witness stand, because that statute of limitations is over. Ironically, there is no statutory limit on child support. The victim is victimized again, by the rapist AND by the State. If this were not my own story I would not believe it. Yet, I must.

In 2002, many of us thought we would see justice. Ironically, I missed inclusion in a law I had work on related to this Bill before us today by mere months . The law passed but I, and many people like me, were heartbroken.

Five years later in 2007, Bill 7048 in CT revisits the issue, raising the age limit to 40 years for criminal and civil litigation after the victim reaches the age of majority. In addition to myself, in the name of the victims who cannot speak here today, I petition this committee to pass Bill 7048 with all it's provisions, some of which are brought to you through the unutterable suffering which inspired me to contact Senator Lebeau.

For, me, it has been an unusual heartbreaking tale, for my abuser re-victimized me over twenty years later by jailing and bankrupting me over to child support for the child she conceived but never told me about. She admitted on a witness stand to abusing me as a child when she was an adult but she was immune, for the statute of limitations was only 7 years at the time. There is currently no age limitation for paternity or child support. My abuser went on to buy a house she still lives in with the money, yet I was that bankrupted and incarcerated. She has never given the now adult child anything. Today that child, now an adult, is committed to Norwich State Hospital; another victim of her own mother who molested me. This re-victimization nearly destroyed me and this child, but I have begun to fight back and help others in the process. I am now a CT Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and have worked on several public policy issues. For more information on my efforts see www.lousorrentino.com.

Please give the victims another opportunity. If this Bill does not get passed, thousands of people who would have been able to have their molesters arrested and sued, will be victimized again. This time it would be by the inaction of the legislature. As for me, I'll keep trying for I may not be able to change what happened to me, but I can affect the lives of others. Please let your actions on Bill 7048 reflect this, my pledge, and my heart.

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(over)

Subject: IMPORTANT UPDATE ON BILL
From: "Salemi, Nick" <Nick.Salemi@cga.ct.gov>
Date: Tue, April 3, 2007 11:19 am
To: lou@lousorrentino.com

Lou,

FYI this bill covers a 40 year span so you would be covered.

Please see House Bill 7408, sections 4 and 5. (see Attached) Those two sections were added after Sen. LeBeau spoke to Sen. McDonald and the Judiciary Committee staff. It extends both the civil and criminal statute of limitations to 40 years after the age of majority.

NOTE: If you wish to testify The bill is scheduled for a public hearing tomorrow, Wednesday, at 11:00 am, room 2C of the Legislative Office Building. Sorry about the late notice but this is the first notice I got.